

Grade 6 Sample Test Prompt

Word Choice

The cafeteria serves some foods people like and some they don't like. Think about three different foods that you would like the cafeteria manager to serve that you can't get now in the cafeteria.

Write a letter to the cafeteria manager convincing her to serve each of the three new foods that you are suggesting.

Your essay should

- Target a specific audience and purpose .
- Organize clear ideas into a meaningful sequence .

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

WORD CHOICE

<p>6</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing. • fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>5</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing. • fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>4</p> <p>Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work but do not particularly energize the writing. • expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective. • attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone. • occasional overuse of technical language or jargon. • rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.
<p>3</p> <p>Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work, but that rarely capture the reader’s interest. • expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective. • attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced. • words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear, technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used. • reliance on clichés and overused expressions. 	<p>2</p> <p>Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that are colorless, flat or imprecise. • monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly distract from the message. • images that are fuzzy or absent altogether. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general, vague words that fail to communicate. • an extremely limited range of words. • words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.

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Writing

FINAL COPY

Deer cafeteria went New kind of food in
the Cafeteria. We are bored of the old food.
The New food we wanted soup and potatoes
and fish.

Score point 1 – Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague language. The writer uses an extremely limited range of words.

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

The cafeteria serves food we like and don't like. Some of us like pizza, hamburgers or beanberito's. Some of us don't like any of that stuff and some of us don't like salads, onion's or hotdog's. And some people like do's kind of food. If we got to pick any kind of food I well picke tacos or pizza becaus that is my favret food

Score point 2 – Language is monotonous. Words are colorless, flat, and imprecise. “Some,” “like,” and “stuff” are vague words that represent absent images.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

<p>Dear Cafeteria ladies,</p> <p>I would like you guys to give Pizza. nachos and chicken wing. Because there good and and you guys Put some Hot chile in the chicken wings. And and the Piza be not so Hot Please Because some times you and get Bearn your tung, the nachos shud be White chese and JanPeños. Because, ther Beri Good and and you Please serv the food the'd We like Because some People donlike some food they you guys make Please make some nachos Pizza and Chicken wing Please because the food thed some times you made. Probrality you guais don't no what to do, or Probrality you are tire or Pustriest.</p>	<p>Score point 3 – Language is quite ordinary, lacking precision and variety. Words are accurate for the most part, but “the’d” for that and “they” for that are <u>misused</u>. Using the expression “you guys” is <u>inappropriate to audience and purpose</u>.</p>
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Writing**FINAL COPY**

Dear Cafeteria Manager,

I was wondering if the Cafeteria could serve something different, besides the same old food. Some people get tired of eating the same food, so I was thinking the cafeteria could serve at least 3 new foods, if it was all good with you. If it is all right, then I was thinking that maybe the 3 new foods to serve could be Anchiladas, hot wings, and mozzarella sticks. I think that pretty much all the students would really enjoy to get a break from all the other food. If you disagree with me, then maybe you could at least let everybody vote, to see what they would prefer the most. If you want, I could even talk to the principal about it, if that's what your worried about. I'll do anything to help, if you try my idea? Maybe if you like it, then

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

4/21/04

Dear Cafeteria Manager,


My classmates and teacher have selected me to write you a beneficial letter regarding our school food.

I am proud to learn at such a wonderful school but it has come to the awareness of my peers and I that the food at this school are not as great as we would like them to be. The rations come in small portions, and are very low in nutrients to my fellow students and I have brainstormed different foods, and new ways of keeping the food better preserved.

One way of keeping our food fresh is to get a new salad bar. I personally think that the one the school uses right now is old and grossy. We think you should ask the school to buy a new one. A fellow classmate of mine proclaimed he had seen a new one on a website that had misters to keep the fruits and vegetables fresh, bigger containers to put produce in, and for a very low price.

My peers have also thought of some new foods you could use, because the ones that are being eaten

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

now are not very healthy, and not enjoyable. We were thinking that maybe you could have a day with a certain type of edible. For example, there could be an Italian food day, where you could serve spaghetti, pizza and Caesar salads. Or a Mexican food day where taco salads, and burritos are on the menu. You can also get recipes of the internet and cookbooks, or even look through a menu at a restaurant for different ideas on what you could serve in the cafeteria.

My classmates and I have given you all of the constructive criticism we can think of and we hope you consider some of the ideas we have given you.

Sincerely,

A M

Score point 5 – Words convey the intended message in an interesting way. The writer employs a broad range of words. The writer uses vocabulary that is striking and varied: “The rations come in small perportions, and are very low in nutrients.”

Writing**FINAL COPY**

April 21, 2009

Dear our fine Cafeteria Manager,

Our school cafeteria has many wonderful foods that my friends and I agree are all very good and delicious. I am writing because I have a request that I wish to be granted. Through my time of eating in your successful cafeteria, there are times when I crave certain foods that aren't there. I wish to tell you of these foods and explain to you why I would enjoy having them in my school cafeteria.

My first food I often crave is ribs. Sometimes I walk into the cafeteria knowing that it isn't the food I wanted. I end up eating what is there. I often beg to tame these cravings when I get home (this doesn't make my mother happy). The next thing, which I would most appreciate being changed, would be the assortment of drinks. I think it would be so much better if we just added two or three. Most every day I have to listen to my friends complain of how they are so thirsty, yet they will not get milk because they don't like it, the juice is gross (sorry), and the Sunny Delights, Gatorades, and water bottles cost much too much.

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

Please, this one would really help me.

My last addition would be desserts. After meals many people look forward to some kind of small treat. Some suggestions would be ice cream, popsicles, or pie. Dessert is my favorite part of a meal so I would be much obliged to this addition.

I have given you my ideas. You may adjust them as you think they would work, but please think about at least one new addition. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

C T

Score point 6 – Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact, for example, “a request ...to be granted,” “beg to tame these cravings,” “assortment of drinks,” and “much obliged to this addition.”